

Rockefeller Is Thankful, Continues With Schedule

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

Vice President Rockefeller yesterday reacted to news of the apparent attempt to assassinate President Ford by exclaiming, "Thank God that he's all right" and then plunged ahead with his normal schedule.

Rockefeller, next in line for the presidency, first heard about the incident moments after he had finished addressing a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Rochester, N.Y.

At a press conference immediately afterward, he answered a question about his reaction by saying: "I just thought immediately, thank God the President's safe."

The Vice President also told the press conference, "When you join the armed forces, you take a certain risk. It's the same with public life. Thank God that he's all right."

A spokesman for Rockefeller said later that the Vice President had not spoken to Mr. Ford following the incident in Sacramento and did not plan to return to Washington.

After leaving Rochester, he flew to his family estate at Pocantico Hills in Westchester County, north of New York City. The spokesman said that Rockefeller regularly spends his weekends there and had not planned to return to Washington until Sunday when he is scheduled to be host at a "housewarming" for the residence being prepared for his use on the Naval Observatory grounds.

The spokesman said there was no indication that Rockefeller intended to alter this schedule.

The spokesman also said "absolutely not" to a question about whether there had been any bolstering of security for Rockefeller following the Sacramento incident.

Although he declined to give details about the number of Secret Service agents assigned to guard Rockefeller, the spokesman said that "he is guarded in the same way as the President" and added: "I don't know how they could increase the size of the guard without putting men on the roof of his car."